

## Minutes

### Ecological Response and Outreach Subcommittee Spring NADP Burlington Vt. April 11 & 12, 2007

**April 11**  
**Tuesday afternoon**

#### **A. New subcommittee leadership**

I never accepted this position with the intent of being “chair for life” – as much as I enjoy the work and interactions. Although I expect to remain active in EROS, I need someone else to take on the chair’s position, and we have long needed a vice chair/secretary.

- a. **Action:** Pam will write up a description of the chairs duties. This and the new committee charges will be distributed to both the EROS membership and the joint subcommittee’s membership so that potential candidates will have a better idea of the time commitment. The goal is to elect a new chair and secretary/vice chair in Fall 2007

#### **B. Outreach efforts to include non-Federal site sponsors and operators**

At the last fall meeting none of the operators being awarded for their commitment to the Program were present to accept the award, and that is a shame. And few of the non government sponsors typically attend. We are missing a valuable component in the decision making process by not having these folks as active participants. One of the reasons why the meetings move around the country is to enable people with limited travel funds to attend when the meetings are in their neck of the woods. We need to make an effort to invite and include sponsors and operators in the vicinity of each of the semi-annual meetings. Furthermore, we have lost much of the agricultural community that began the network in the first place. This is jeopardizing NADP’s inclusion in the NRSP programs. In part this is because atmospheric deposition is not considered much of an agricultural issue at the moment. The relatively recent view of agriculture as a pollutant source, and the increasing need to reevaluate deposition effects on mineral nutrition, give the Program an opportunity to reassimilate agriculture into the national deposition picture.

- a. **Action:** A list of sponsors and operators in the vicinity of the Spring and Fall meetings will be assembled and an invitation directed to those individuals will be sent by the committee (Pam with help from the Tom Butler, the Program Office, NPS and FS will identify sponsors and operators within the Boulder general area and send a special invitation).
- b. **Action:** Get the list of researchers supported by NRSP-3 from Cari and/or Ray (appendix E). Develop targeted meeting notices focused on agricultural interests in NADP, eg emerging sulfur deficiencies, nitrogen fertilization, nutrient redistribution and global change. (Andy Johnson will coordinate the effort)

### **C. Ammonia monitoring and NRSP-3 researchers: can we develop this link?**

EPA is considering a pilot project using passive ammonia samplers to measure ambient concentrations in key areas. As agriculture is the primary (but not the only) source, agricultural research, extension and production community has a stake in the outcome.

- a. **Action:** Work with Gary Lear to write 2 1-page fact sheets about NH<sub>3</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> monitoring. 1 fact sheet for a general audience including the policy community and 1 fact sheet for a technical audience. (Maggie, Pam, others? have offered to help Gary)
- b. **Action:** Ray Knighton will continue the conversation with Gary regarding agriculture's interest in monitoring NH<sub>3</sub>.

**April 12**

**Wednesday morning**

### **A. NARSTO – what's it got to do with us?**

Tom Clair gave a nice briefing on the multi-pollutant assessment document being developed by NARSTO, which will contain a significant monitoring component. Information on the assessment can be found at: <http://www.narsto.org/mpacc.src>

A workshop for the authors working on the ecosystems component was held following the NADP Interim Subcommittees meeting.

(no action required)

### **B. Mercury monitoring, next steps and needs**

The Advocates for the Hg initiative have asked for assistance from EROS in developing educational materials for potential collaborators, sponsors and the general public. Although the initiative is not a formal network, clearly NADP houses the most complete national data set in the wet deposition network and thus has built a sound reputation in the Hg research and policy community.

- a. **Action:** David Gay asked EROS to help with outreach on the mercury dry deposition monitoring initiative. Four needs were identified:
  - i. Information documents/presentations: Why do dry at all?  
Action: Prepare 1-page fact sheet using a combination of the existing Hg brochure and the "Why not dry" power point presentation
  - ii. Ecologically relevant siting criteria (descriptive rather than prescriptive) so that key locations can be identified  
Action: Dave Krabbenhoft has developed a national map of sensitive areas that will accomplish this task.
  - iii. Assistance with a web presence. As NADP has the best collection of Hg data and science, making NADP home for Hg information resources makes sense.  
Action: EROS suggested that we wait until the new web site has been adopted before investing in new pages, but to continue to collect new information and links that can be dropped in when the site has been revamped.

- iv. Assistance with outreach to potential partners and data users  
Action: Water and fish and wildlife folks were identified as the key audience. Ray will provide a list of USDA fish and wildlife researchers and we will assemble a list of State-level water boards and Fish and wildlife folks (particularly where fish advisories have been issued) to send to targeted individuals and office.

Several individuals have volunteered to work on these efforts. A plan of attack is under development

**C. Soil monitoring workshop report and update**

- a. Greg Lawrence presented an update on the Soil monitoring network being established in the Northeast. Like the Hg initiative the objective is to provide a central location for data and methods sharing. (no action required)

**D. Urbanization: Landscapes changing around long term NADP stations.**

- a. Greg Weatherbee presented a proposal for testing the sensitivity of using changes in analyte concentrations as a marker for encroachment of human development. These data would be compared to recent census data. (no action required)